



# Foggy Bottom News

FEBRUARY 1986

Published for and by the citizens of Foggy Bottom

Volume 30, No. 5

## Change of View: Wilson Gaining New Perspective

By Marcia Slacum Green  
Washington Post Staff Writer\*

**D**C. City Council member John Wilson, who represents a ward with one of the largest concentration of tenants, has changed his views on rent control.

Until now, Wilson viewed rent control as a "program" to make decent housing affordable for low- and middle-income District residents. Now he believes it can be no more than a "stop-gap" measure until other solutions are found.

Some of Wilson's views on other issues, including education and prisons, have also changed in recent months since he began juggling the roles of politician, teacher and student as a fellow at Harvard University's Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government.

Since the city received Home Rule more than a decade ago, Wilson has represented Ward 2, which extends from Georgetown to Capitol Hill and from Shaw to Southwest. He maintains that he never spent more than two days in a row outside the District until he went to Harvard.

As a fellow, Wilson rented an efficiency apartment in Boston in September and has spent only about three days a week in the District. Although his work at Harvard ended in January, Wilson insisted that his stay in Boston has had an impact that will affect his political work here.

Wilson, a former candidate for mayor, Mayor Marion Barry's frequent verbal sparring partner on budgetary matters, and the council member who readily spices up a legislative debate with both witty and sarcastic speeches, said he had become worn and depressed from years of politics.

"I had run out of a lot of ideas and different approaches and I wanted to bounce my thoughts off other people," said Wilson. "[The fellowship] has been one of the most rewarding and interesting experiences I have ever had in my life, except for serving on the council . . . I really needed my whole philosophical viewpoint reinforced."

But he has reassessed other philosophies, too, he said during a wide-ranging interview about his Harvard studies.

Wilson, chairman of the City Council's Committee on Finance and Revenue, said he has been convinced that the District government should place a greater emphasis on education, including doubling expenditures, testing teachers, providing merit pay for teachers

## The National Park Service and Foggy Bottom/West End

Are you interested in hearing what the National Park Service has in store for Foggy Bottom and the West End in connection with:

- the further development and enhancement of the Canal National Historical Park?
- the Georgetown Waterfront Park?
- Thompson's Boathouse?
- the now inaccessible open spaces between Rock Creek and 26th Street?

Come to the February FBA meeting and hear Mr. Jack Benjamin, Deputy Associate Regional Director of the National Park Service for the National Capital Region. Mr. Benjamin will describe these existing and projected urban parkland and recreation areas; report the progress being made in creating the Georgetown Waterfront Park; trace the planned pedestrian and bicycle links between Foggy Bottom/West End and the riverfront park areas from Key Bridge to the Lincoln Memorial; and respond to resident concerns that the anticipated flow of visitors to the Waterfront and Canal Parks will spill over into and adversely impact our quiet residential neighborhood.

The FBA meeting will be held Monday, February 24 at 8:00 p.m. in Pillsbury Hall of St. Paul's Church. All residents, friends, and interested visitors are welcome. Don't miss it!

## Lower K Street — East End Committee Meets

**T**he second meeting of the Mayor's Lower Street — East End (Whitehurst Freeway) Committee was held at St. Stephen's Church on January 21 under the chairmanship of Mr. C. Bernard Gilpin, Director of the Office of Policy and Planning of the District Department of Public Works. At the meeting, Mr. Gilpin introduced Ms. Michelle La Violette, a traffic analyst and planner who recently joined the DPW Policy and Planning staff as the Action Officer for the East End Committee.

Ms. La Violette will guide and support the Committee as it carries out its neighborhood traffic management mandate to explore, study, and propose solutions to neighborhood traffic problems. Ms. La Violette reviewed the issues, problems and specific concerns which had been outlined by the Foggy Bottom and West End members of the Committee at the first meeting in November, and reported on the actions taken by DPW to study and resolve the array of signal light, pedestrian safety, and parking problems which had been raised at the opening session.

In response to the repeated requests by neighborhood representatives for an in-depth study of the flow of traffic into and through Foggy Bottom and the West End, Mr. Gilpin announced that the Department of Public Works now agrees on the need for the systematic collection of traffic flow data and the methodical analysis of this information as both the first step and a basic building block in any sound analysis of commuter and local traffic flow problems. These data are also essential to the identification of potential solutions as well as to the detailed design of corrective actions. Accordingly, the DPW has decided to contract with a traffic engineering firm to undertake the much needed study and to develop a computer model of traffic flows — volumes, origins and destinations, routes, patterns — in the area bounded by N Street, Constitution Avenue, 18th Street, and Rock Creek. Ms. La Violette described the year-long data collection, computer modeling, and traffic analysis effort envisaged by the DPW, and outlined briefly key provisions of the draft Request for Proposals which the DPW is preparing to issue.

Neighborhood representatives warmly welcomed DPW action on the planned traffic flow study. They noted that past efforts by both District Government traffic engineers and neighborhood residents to understand and propose sound and sensible solutions for

## Meeting Foggy Bottom Association

8:00 P.M.  
FEBRUARY 24

Guest Speaker  
**Jack Benjamin**  
National Park Service

**St. Paul's Parish House**  
2430 K Street, N.W.

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## K Street Committee . . .

(continued from page 1)

the commuter traffic problems which beset the neighborhood had repeatedly foundered on the lack of "hard," detailed, and accurate information on commuter and local residential traffic movements. They recalled the frequently stated objective of the community: to achieve the complete separation of commuter traffic from the local residential street network, and welcomed the projected study as a significant first step in a long-term effort to devise ways to achieve that goal.

DPW representatives re-affirmed the requirement (for safety reasons) for the "Great Wall" erected several months ago in the middle of Virginia Avenue without consultation with neighborhood residents, and later extended despite vigorous neighborhood opposition. The DPW representatives did agree, however, to carry back to the traffic engineering staff, for careful and detailed study, a neighborhood proposal to combine the

re-establishment of a pedestrian crossing of Virginia Avenue on a line with the west side of 24th Street with Mr. Gilpin's aesthetically more pleasing centerline barrier. The combined proposal would at once control jay-walking and move the designated pedestrian crossing an additional 40-50 feet away from the vehicle exit of the 23rd Street underpass.

## Service Held for "The Admiral"

Family, Foggy Bottom residents and others paid tribute February 7 to Roland Bennett, known in the neighborhood as "the Admiral." Thanks to Do-reen Hitchcock and the D.C. Coalition for the Homeless, members of his family were located and attended services at the Arlington Cemetery and a ceremony held at 25th & Virginia Avenue. The homeless man had lived on a grate at that location.

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## NEXT MEETING OF ANC-2A

**Tuesday  
March 11, 1986  
7:30 p.m.**

**St. Mary's Court  
725 24th Street**

## HIGHLIGHTS ANC-2A Monthly Meeting January 14, 1986

1. **Plan for office/commercial complex at site of B&W Garage, 24th and N Streets, N.W.:** The Commissioners had no objections to the project architect's change in plans for the exterior color, i.e., the building will be painted a monochromatic color scheme, in tones of gray, rather than originally planned brick red. Gray will be more compatible with the color of new neighboring structures.

2. **Proposed hotel, 21st Street between L & M:** Commissioner Rosenbaum reported that the proposal had been rejected by the Zoning Commission by a vote of 40-0. The Commission questioned the applicant's traffic study and the frequent changes in plans.

3. **Proposed chancery, 2400 block of Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.:** Commissioner Rosebaum reported that the applicant has decided not to appeal the BZA rejection of the plan.

4. **Boston Properties' Project, 24th & N Streets, N.W.:** An informational presentation was made on this mixed use complex, which is in the Dupont Circle ANC's area, but abutting on ANC-2A. The proposed development will have 45,000 square feet of residential space and 56,000 of office and commercial space. A planned unit development (PUD) application will be filed.

5. **Officers for 1986:** Chairman, Geoffrey E. Stamm; First Vice Chairman, Ralph Rosenbaum; Second Vice Chairman, Steve Levy; Secretary, Louis T. Rigdon II; and Treasurer, Sue Schumacher.

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February 1986

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## Foggy Bottom News

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Editor ..... Ellie Becker  
Assistant Editor ..... Denise Vogt  
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### Contributing Writers

Crime Watch ..... Bob Alcorn  
Local News ..... Elizabeth Charette  
Feature Writers ..... Deborah Cahill-Zelinka/  
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## MINUTES — ANC MEETING II February 1986 Columbia Hospital 2425 L Street, N.W.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 P.M. Commissioner Levy was absent.

**Treasurer's Report:** The following expenses were approved: C&P — \$28.35; Penn Press — \$49.22; Lois Snyderman — \$400.00. After expenses the account balance is \$8,455.76.

**Boston Properties proposed PUD for combined office/residential building at 24th & N Streets:** The ANC reviewed the plans and a model for this development, which is on the side of N Street covered by ANC-2B (Dupont Circle), but is part of the overall phased development plan Boston Properties is carrying out within the ANC-2A borders. The developers want a change of zoning from R-5-B to CR purportedly to allow the office use to subsidize construction of additional residential units. While welcoming bonafide residential construction, the ANC expressed great reservations about the requested change of zoning to mixed-use CR. The ANC deferred taking any formal action until after ANC-2B had taken a position.

**Exterior paint color for redeveloped office building at 1250 24th Street (former B&W Garage [Zoning Case 84-19c]:** The developer now wants to paint the exterior a neutral color, which owner Phil Brown and others feel would detract from the historic quality of the facade. Because this project is a PUD (Planned Unit Development) already approved by the Zoning Commission, the developer must go back to the Zoning Commission for approval of any change in plans. After extended discussion of the issue, the ANC asked for the developer's architect to attend a future meeting, when the ANC would hear limited debate on the merits and then take a final position.

**Update on Lower K Street/East End Committee:** Commissioner Tyler reported that a committee meeting was held on January 21 with very little notice, when she was overseas, and the ANC Chairman was not notified at all. On her recommendation, the ANC will object to D.C. officials about the way the committee activities are being handled.

Mel Ogden, who attended the committee meeting, reported that the committee

discussed the Chessie System coal-truck route along K Street at some length, as well as a Department of Public Works proposal to replace the Jersey barriers in the median of Virginia Avenue at 24th Street with a wrought-iron fence at a cost of \$40,000.

**Proposed fountain at 25th & New Hampshire Avenue:** The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia proposes to construct and maintain a fountain adjacent to the north side of its building at 601 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., as a gift from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the District of Columbia. The ANC reviewed the plans and heartily endorsed the proposal (moved/Stamm — seconded/Rosenbaum; 5-0).

**Proposed Mayfair Hotel on 2100 block of L Street [Zoning Case 85-5c]:** The Zoning Commission concurred with the ANC's objections and denied this application. Now the developer is asking for reconsideration before the Zoning Commission's order is even issued. The ANC resolved to oppose any reconsideration (moved/Rigdon — seconded/Rosenbaum; 5-0).

**Proposed rezoning of R-5-B areas to R-5-B(D) [Zoning Case 84-7]:** The National Capital Planning Commission has proposed this "Diplomatic overlay" zoning on many squares in the District, including the ANC-2A area, to clearly allow chanceries. Commissioner Rosenbaum pointed out that office space is abundant in the District, so there is hardly any need for chanceries to locate in areas zoned for residential use, and the ANC opposed this proposal (moved/Rosenbaum — seconded/Rigdon; 5-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.


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## Wilson . . . (continued from page 1)

and making computers available to every child in the school system.

"I never looked at education as a key to running a city," said Wilson. "Industry and jobs go where they can find people with adequate skills. We're losing a whole generation of students because they are not prepared."

He also has altered his views on the need for prisons.

"I have a more progressive view," Wilson said. "There need to be more community-based facilities, and politicians need to be more objective. Before, I believed we should build more prisons to put more in them. Now, I think we have to look at the social ills connected to crime and take a double approach — look for alternatives."

As part of the Harvard program, Wilson must teach a

weekly study group on city government, politics and problems.

LaVaughn Henry, one of the student coordinators for Wilson's group, said the council member maintained a steady group of listeners through a combination of humor and an emphasis on the practical side of politics. The study group, which sometimes numbers as many as 20 students is scheduled to meet from 8 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays but at times goes until 10:30 p.m., students said.

In accordance with rules established by the Institute of Politics, which annually hosts the city mayor, council members and other local officials, the discussions during those study groups remain off the record. Students said they were impressed by Wilson's determination to make them identify with the challenges facing urban governments.

"He is dynamic and very energetic," said student Ken Gerber. "He seems to care a lot about people and his community. He has stressed to students that we're the ones to be faced with the problems in the future."

Of this semester's crop of institute fellows — including former New Republic editor Rick Hertzberg, New York State Assembly member Barbara Patton, former Conservative Digest editor Lee Edwards, Arizona Republic editor Jack Casserly, CBS Evening News producer Richard Cohen and Karen M. Paget, former director of The Youth Project, a Washington-based foundation — Wilson was the only one whose central focus was local politics.

"Wilson has made a dent in the group by insisting on being heard," said Paget. "There is certainly a high level of frustration [on Wilson's part] but his commitment to local politics does not wane."

## Columbia Hospital Sponsors Seminars on Preventive Breast Care

Columbia Hospital for Women Medical Center will sponsor a series of free seminars on "Breast Care in the 80's: Taking the Initiative" on Wednesday, March 5 and Tuesday, March 11 and 18, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the hospital's Teresa Adkins Conference Room, 2425 L Street, Northwest.

The program is designed for women who want to learn more about preventive breast care. The sessions will be led by physicians trained in the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.

The series kicks off March 5 with a presentation by Katherine Alley, M.D., on the importance of early detection of cancer and the treatment options available.

On March 11, volunteers from the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the American Cancer Society will

demonstrate how to conduct breast self-exams. Leonard Glassman, M.D., Columbia's Chief of Radiology, will address the importance of mammography screening. The series concludes March 18 with a panel discussion involving

women who have experienced breast cancer.

Women throughout the Washington metropolitan area are invited to attend. Participants should register in advance by calling Columbia Hospital at 202 293-2048.

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## CrimeWatch

We have great news to report this month.

A group of residents from the Envoy Building of Columbia Plaza met with Officer Marti Clark on January 22 to set up a form of Neighborhood Watch within the building. The group headed by Dr. Morris Chalick discussed methods of strengthening security, of alerting residents to be more careful with outside doors and windows, of watching for problems in the basement garage and a number of other places, and ways to get information to residents not attending the meeting. During the course of the meeting Officer Clark said that she would consider the building as an entire block so that not only would we bring a large number of residents into our Watch program but would also add an entire square to our map.

There appears to have been a good number of security problems and at least one robbery at the Envoy Building in recent months and Dr. Chalick has been working with us for some time to coordinate a Watch

program to suit the needs of his building. We sincerely hope that soon the other buildings in the complex will follow suit and organize.

We are still getting reports from our neighbors in residential apartment buildings that people are still letting in strangers, street people, etc. Please be more considerate. Remember you may be looking out for the safety of your neighbor; you may be helping yourself avoid a problem if you refuse to let people follow you into locked, unguarded lobbies even though their reason sounds good.

As we walk through the neighborhood we are still seeing automobiles with keys left in the ignition or with visible luggage, packages, and all sorts of things on the seats. We see handbags left in shopping carts at the supermarket and in at least two cases left on a flight of stairs in front of an open, unattended front door. We still hear of apartment doors left open while the resident walks, in some cases, half a block to the trash room. All of these

people are trusting to luck. Really they are among the lucky ones not to have been robbed. Neither this column nor police reports given at the various neighborhood meetings seem to sway any of these people from what could be a dangerous practice.

We have one casual observation for the ladies. In recent weeks, we have gone into a number of restaurants only to notice that women — particularly those with long strap shoulder bags — have a habit of handbag the bag over the back of the chair and rarely seem to notice where it is. Such a bag can be a prime target which takes little energy and little movement to divorce it from its owner. If any of you who read this are guilty of this hobby, consider the next time when you go to put your bag in that place you may lose it.

Keep up the good work. I do hear a lot of good things from my neighbors but we still have plenty of room to clean up our act.

See you at the next Foggy Bottom and ANC meetings?

By Bob Alcorn

## Letter to the Editor

On December 31, 1985 my family briefly stopped at the Lincoln Memorial. While we were gone our car was broken into and several things disappeared including our pet Boxer dog.

She has been with our family since she was a puppy (approx. 8 yrs.) and is very greatly missed. Our son is devastated. If at all possible, would you please circulate the description below throughout the neighborhood. We are offering a REWARD - NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

Any help or suggestions that you might be able to give us would be very greatly appreciated.

ciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cindy L. Du Gan

P.S.: If anyone has any information they can call COLLECT: Day: 404/351-1600; Evening: 404/427-1146; Washington Humane Society

Spayed, female boxer; natural ears — have NOT been cropped. Approx. 20 inches at shoulder; docked tail; approx. 55 pounds; 7-8 years of age; fawn color with white on the chest; white blaze on one side of black muzzle; tattoo on inside of hind thigh. She has been mistaken for a Pit Bull or Mixed Boxer due to her small size.

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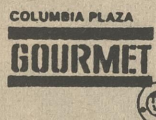
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